

Father Eugene Grytner, SDS
Office hrs Mon-Fri 9 am to 12 pm
1305 E. Mann Road Bartow, FL 33830

MASSES

**Daily at 8:30 am - No Mass on
Wednesday and Saturday morning.**

Saturday: Vigil Bartow: 5:00 pm

Sunday: Ft. Meade 8:00 am

Sunday: Bartow 10:30 am

Sacraments

Confessions: Half hour prior to masses.

Marriage preparation: Arrangements must be
made four months in advance.

Baptism: Last Sunday of the month.

Call Evelyn Rivera 863-370-4000
evecoultter@aol.com

Sick calls – Anytime
Communion for Sick and Home Bound
Call the Church Office

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Every
Sunday 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Monday 8:30 am to 10:30 am

Religious Education Administrator
Jessica Whitmer 863-602-3837

Religious Formation – Every Sunday
Sept thru May

Preschool thru 8th - Sun 9 am to 10:15 am

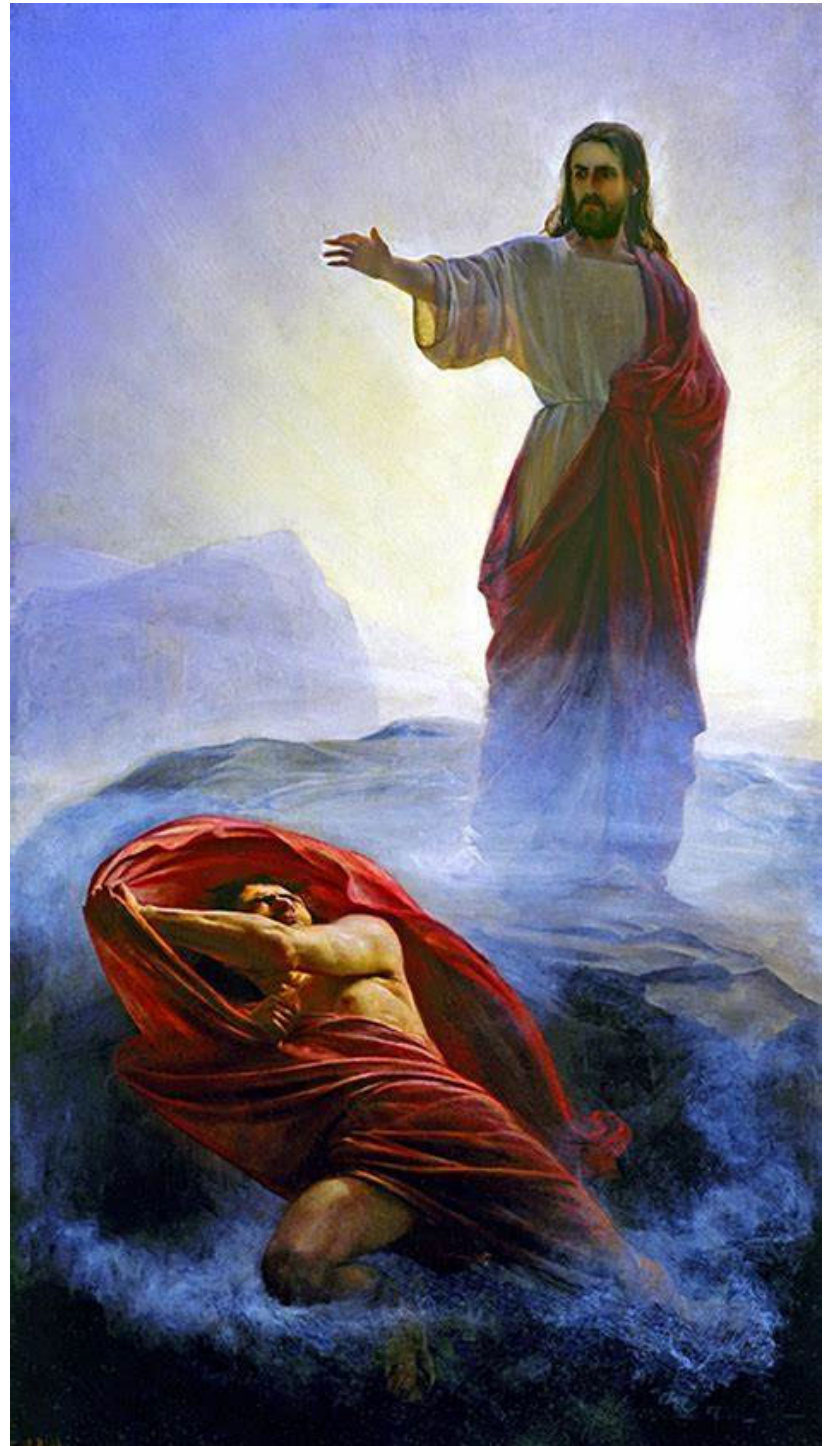
High School Sunday 9:00 to 10:15 am
(1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.)

Email: gloria121@verizon.net
Phone 863-533-8578
Fax 863- 533-5090
www.stthomasbartow.org

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME!
Registration forms in church or office

Remember St. Thomas Church in your will

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
2180 S. Kissingen Ave. Bartow FL, 33830
Diocese of Orlando



1st Sunday of Lent March 9, 2025



Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 8	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 9	8:00 am	+Juan & +Maria Prado By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Mar 9	10:30 am	
Mon Mar 10	8:30 am	
Tue Mar 11	8:30 am	
Thu Mar 13	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri Mar 14	8:30 am	
Sat Mar 15	5:00 pm	For All Parishioners
Sun Mar 16	8:00 am	+Mr. & +Mrs. Clarence Grannon By Miriam Olazabal
Sun Mar 16	10:30 am	+Charles Wiggins By Family

Please Pray For.....

Stuart Andrews, Terry Ayres, Kristin Bing, Pete Byrne, Melvin Casey, , Alan English, Rachel Gohlman, Dorothy Guptaill, Delores Hart, Austin Heath, Zachary Heath, Ivette Hernandez, Jennifer Hoffer, Mark Jansen, Missy Jansen, Stuart Jones, Bill Kjerrumgaard, Leon LaClair, Sara Long, Aaron Mills, Adam Mills, Zachary Mills, Scott Mize, Lacey Pate, , George Pizano, Karlee Severns, Richie Southwell, Chuck Spencer, Rise' St. Arno, Jeff Stidham, Murphy Stidham, Rita Taylor, Laura Webb

Please pray for our deceased diocesan priests

Mar. 18, 1991 Rev. Paul Kajdan
Mar. 20, 1982 Rev. Thomas Gross
Mar. 22, 1972 Msgr. Martin Brendan Power
Mar. 22, 2023 Rev. John J. Ryan
Mar. 25, 1978 Rev. Sean Patrick Molloy



Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm

Spaghetti Dinner-Saturday, March 22

LECTORS	SME
3/8-5:00 pm	
Ann Slocum Ann Spencer	Ann Slocum Evelyn Rivera
3/9-10:30 am	
Unique Gonzalez Luke Almanzan	Bill Leckie Pattie Scott
3/15-5:00 pm	
Carolyn King Pat Lowery	Maureen Leckie Susan DeNeve
3/16-10:30 am	
Alina Gutierrez Confirmandi	Theresa Cherry George Cherry

Saint Thomas Collection

2/23	Regular	\$2170.00
	Maintenance	397.00

Saint Elizabeth Collection

2/23	Regular	460.00
	Maintenance	46.00

LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE 2025

Please prayerfully consider getting involved in the Florida Catholic 20th Annual Long-Sleeve Relief Drive this Lenten Season. The drive will run through Holy Thursday. Clean and gently used light-colored, long-sleeve, button down shirts (men and women S, M & L sizes) are needed, and 100 percent cotton is preferred but not necessary.

There is a drop box in the narthex.

THE SEASON OF MERCY

This week we enter the season of Mercy the season that we call simply "Lent." But we should not forget its greatness. For believing Catholics, it is a defining moment in the year. The Church marks the time with laws and rites that make a deep impression on our memory and our identity. She marks us with ashes and reminds us we are dust. She imposes strict fasting on two days (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) and bids us to abstain from meat on Fridays. These are just the outward signs meant to indicate a deep, interior conversion for which we have to work hard, each one individually.

Pray for Pope Francis

PLENARY INDULGENCE DURING LENT

Did you know that there are several ways you can gain a plenary indulgence during Lent? It's true! There are actually four ways you can receive one.

First of all, what is a plenary indulgence?

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ, Mary, and all the saints to remove the temporal punishment due to sin. The indulgence cleanses a person of all temporal punishment due to sin. However, it must always be accompanied by a full detachment from sin.

Now that we know what a plenary indulgence is, how do we receive one during Lent?

The first way is to spend at least 30 minutes in adoration. Visiting the Blessed Sacrament is important all year round. So why not take part in this beautiful practice during Lent and receive some additional graces too? If you've never been to adoration, or struggle to stay awake (don't worry, we've all been there), try reading a couple of chapters from the Gospels, pray a rosary, or really focus on being in Christ's presence.

The next way is to take part in the Stations of the Cross, which is when we meditate on the Lord's Passion and Death. Every Catholic church should have some kind of Stations of the Cross, whether they are simple or elaborate. Any will do!

However, there are a couple of things to keep in mind. The Holy See's Manual of Indulgences, does state that there have to be 14 stations "representing the 14 stations of Jerusalem." The manual also reminds us that "progression from one station to the next is required." Although, if there are too many people and moving would cause an inconvenience, it is sufficient that at least the one conducting the Way of the Cross move from station to station. In other words, if you attend the Stations of the Cross with many participants and everyone remains in the pews while the priest moves to each station, that is still valid. This specific indulgence can even be gained once a day for those who can attend church daily and wish to perform the Stations of the Cross on their own.

The next way is by praying the rosary "in a church or oratory, or in a family, a religious community, or an association of the faithful."

The last way is by reading or listening to Sacred Scripture. Just make sure you spend at least half an hour with the Word of God and it counts. All right, so you took part in one, or all four, of these ways. But, did you actually receive a plenary indulgence? There are some conditions, like the fine print, that assure you receive your indulgence.

First, you must have complete detachment from all sin, even venial.

Then you have to go to confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the intentions of the pope. Sacramental confession can happen up to about 14 days before or after the act performed to receive a plenary indulgence.

It is appropriate that Communion and the prayer take place on the same day that the work is completed. One sacramental confession is sufficient for several plenary indulgences. However, for each plenary indulgence one wishes to receive, a separate reception of the Eucharist and a separate prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father are required.

Once you have followed these steps, rest assured that you have received a plenary indulgence.

IT'S BABY BOTTLE TIME!

Please return bottles filled with change, cash, checks and prayers. Make checks payable to Options for Women.

What we are witnessing today is nothing less than a great battle for people's souls in a culture that is trying to redefine God and Jesus, his Gospel and his Church — to redefine the God-given institutions of marriage, family, morality and even lordship over life itself. And many indeed are they who "prefer darkness to light, because their works are evil, who hate the light and do not come toward the light, so that their works might not be exposed."

What about us? What is that part of our life that needs to be exposed this Lent to the spiritual light of Christ in the confessional so that we can become the saints, the forgiven sinners, that we are called to be?